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Adoption of the report of the Committee on its fifty-fourth session

Draft report

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Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017
(*Item 3 (b)*)

Programme 21
International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees

1. At its 20th meeting, on 13 June 2014, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 21, International protection, durable solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017 (A/69/6 (Prog. 21)). The Committee also had before it conference room paper E/AC.51/2014/CRP.1.

2. The Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme and for the overall proposed strategic vision presented by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). In that connection, delegations commended UNHCR for its efforts to provide international protection to populations of concern; noted that the proposed strategic vision reinforced nurturing and valuing existing mechanisms and creating new ones to face the current refugee megacrisis; expressed support for the Office's partnering with development organizations and for advocating for displaced populations; encouraged UNHCR to work with other organizations to further

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elaborate and implement various initiatives; were pleased to see the Office's strong fundraising efforts and a proper prioritization of resources; and expressed continued support for the Office's efforts to implement a naturalization programme for refugees, which was deemed to be an essential element to support displaced persons.

4. It was observed that the Office's proposed programme planning was appropriately resource-driven to achieve performance and results. Clarification was sought concerning the issue of predictability, including the estimated flow of assistance to UNHCR.

5. Delegations noted with concern the situation of refugees and expressed their intention to continue to lend support to the international community in finding lasting solutions for that problem. Concerns were expressed regarding the impact and burden on the host countries and queries were raised regarding the measures UNHCR would take in that regard.

6. A comment was made concerning the need to avoid the politicization of the refugee programme.

7. As to the overall orientation, it was noted that some elements of the Office's work which were part of the current period's strategic framework had been eliminated for the period 2016-2017, specifically, two important elements: (a) the principle of consent; and (b) the obligation of United Nations officials to fully respect the laws and regulations of States where they carry out their work. It was emphasized that those were essential concepts which could not be eliminated.

8. Regarding legislative mandates, the comment was made that some resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth sessions had not been listed.

9. With regard to the strategy of the programme, in relation to the issue of evaluation, clarification was sought as to the instruments used for self-evaluation in general. Furthermore, interest was noted regarding the proposed use of standards and indicators across the full spectrum of the work of UNHCR to identify protection and assistance gaps and to channel resources in order to ensure that acceptable standards were met in critical situations.

10. It was recalled that during the Committee's last session, the evaluation by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the UNHCR evaluation unit had been discussed. Delegations requested comments on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, including the measures that had been taken to guarantee cooperation between UNHCR and the Office of Internal Oversight Services.

11. Delegations urged UNHCR to fill the post of High Commissioner for Protection, which had been vacant for a year, expeditiously.

12. The comment was made that a delegation would continue to lend its support to the work of UNHCR by hosting, in Brasilia, the conference to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Cartagena Declaration on Refugees.

13. A comment was made that paragraph 21.5 of the overall orientation referred to an event that had taken place in 2011. It was queried why that event was part of the overall orientation.

14. It was also commented that in subparagraph 21.6 (h) of the overall orientation, no reference had been made to the participation of UNHCR in the international conferences referred to or the ways in which UNHCR would be linked to them once a new United Nations development framework had been approved. Furthermore, it was requested that a list be provided of humanitarian and development organizations with which UNHCR had been working.

15. Regarding subparagraphs 21.6 (c) and (g) of the overall orientation, clarification was sought as to how the enhancement and reinforcement of host country capacities to provide asylum and protection would be achieved.

16. With regard to the objective of the programme, a comment was made that the concept of "permanent solutions" might be new and that attention should be given to the concept of "durable solutions", which was even part of the name of the programme.

17. A comment was made that proposed indicator of achievement (a) (i), regarding an increased number of ratifications/accessions to the 1954 and 1961 Conventions relating to Statelessness, did not clarify how the increase would be measured.

18. It was observed that proposed expected accomplishment (b) did not convey the concept of fair and efficient treatment of populations when seeking protection, and that a different indicator of achievement might be needed.

19. It was observed that proposed indicator of achievement (c) (i) should better describe how the indicator would be measured. Furthermore, clarification was sought as to what process would be initiated under proposed indicator of achievement (c) (ii).

20. As to expected accomplishment (c) and indicator of achievement (c) (i), it was commented that although the scope of violence and abuse was limited to sexual violence, other types of violence also existed, for example, violence based on racial or religious grounds. It was further commented that given the many types of violence, a generic reference to "victims of violence" would be more appropriate. Another comment was made that addressing sexual and gender-based violence was of singular importance and that delegations were pleased to see a specific indicator of achievement related to that effort.

21. Regarding the proposed indicators of achievement (d) (i) and (iii), clarifications were also requested as to what the concept of "acceptable standards" entailed and how such standards would be measured.

22. With regard to indicator of achievement (f) (iii), clarification was sought concerning how the local integration of refugees and resettled populations would be measured.

23. Regarding expected accomplishment (g), clarification was sought as to why the word "refugee" was not part of the language of the expected accomplishment and only "persons of concern" were being referenced.

Conclusions and recommendations

24. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 21, International protection, durable**

solutions and assistance to refugees, of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2016-2017, subject to the following modifications:

Overall orientation

Paragraph 21.2

In the fourth sentence, insert the words "and with the consent of the State concerned" after "at a specific request of the Secretary-General".

Paragraph 21.6 (f)

Insert "and empowerment of women" after "gender equality".

Paragraph 21.6 (g)

Insert the following sentence as the second part of the paragraph:

"In this regard, due consideration should be given to the obligation of United Nations officials to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization".

Paragraph 21.11

In the second sentence, after "actors", add "especially from civil society".

Paragraph 21.14

After the first sentence, add the following sentence: "UNHCR will work with Member States to raise awareness about the dramatic reality of refugees, which requires urgent and durable solutions".

Objective of the Organization

Replace "permanent solutions" with "durable solutions".

Expected accomplishments/indicators of achievement

Amend indicator of achievement (c) (i) to read "Increased number of UNHCR operations in which support to survivors of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, has improved".

Add new indicator of achievement (f) (iv) to read "Voluntary repatriation of refugees and their sustainable reintegration in the country of origin".

In expected accomplishment (g), insert "refugees and" before "persons of concern".

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

Replace resolution 66/133, "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", with resolution 68/141, "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

Replace resolution 66/134, "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees", with resolution 68/142, "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees".

Replace resolution 66/135, "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa", with resolution 68/143, "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa".

Add resolution 68/180, "Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons".